



A P R O C L A M A T I O N,

For bringing in ARMS out of some VVest Shires.

Edinburgh, the 25. of March, 1667.



CHARLES, by the Grace of GOD, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith. To Our Lobits, Messengers, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, Greeting: Forasmuch as the late Rebellion, and rising in Arms in the western Shires, is too great an evidence that there are many dissaffected Persons in these Places, who are ready to involve the Kingdom again in a bloody and unnatural war: And that we have just reason to suspect that these Rebels will be ready to lay hold in this opportunity, to rise in Arms, when we are necessitate to continue the war with Our Forraign Enemies. And not only to make use of such Arms, Powder and Ammunition, as they have concealed, or may be transported to them from Our Enemies; but will seize upon the Arms of Our well affected Subjects, who reside amongst them, and are not able to make resistance: which may endanger the Peace of the Kingdom, and weaken Our Forces, necessitating them at one time to oppose Forraign Invasions, and Intestine Commotions. As likewise, that according to their former wicked practices, they may invade the Ministers of the Gospel, who are lawfully admitted Preachers amongst them, and do violence or injury to their Persons, to the great contempt of Our Authority, and scandal of the Reformed Religion, as it is now profest. Therefore, we, with Advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council, Command and Charge all persons residing within the Shires of Lanerk, Ayr, Renfrew, Wigton, and the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, before the first day of May next, to bring in all their Arms and Ammunition which they have in their possession, of whatsoever sort (allowing Gentlemen only to carry Swords, and none other) to the Head Burgh of the respective Shires and Stewartry; and deliver the same to the Sheriff, his Depute, or any having his Order. With Certification to them, if they saylie, they shall be fined by Our Secret Council in the sums of Money underwritten; viz. *Ilk Gentleman, in the sum of two thousand Merks; and every other person, in the sum of five hundred Merks; to be divided, the one half to be paid to Our Exchequer, and the other half to any person who shall first discover the Concealers: And further, shall be proceeded against as seditious persons, and dissaffected to Our Government. Likewise, we ordain the said Sheriff, his Depute, or any other appointed by him, immediately upon the delivery of their said Arms or Ammunition, to carry the same to Strivling, or Dumbarton Castles, which shall be next adjacent; there to be kept by the Governour thereof. As likewise, we Command and Charge, That all Heretors and Parishioners, residing in any of the Paroches within the saids bounds, protect and defend the Persons, Families and Goods of their respective Ministers, within their several Paroches, from all Affronts and Injuries to be committed by insolent and dissaffected Persons to the present Government; as well when they are in the Exercise of the Ministerial Function, as residing at their own houses and dwellings: with certification, that if any Injury or Affront shall be done to them, in their Persons or Goods, that the Parishioners who shall suffer the same to be done, and not oppose the doing thereof, shall be reputed and holden as art and part of the saids Crimes and Violence, and be proceeded against by Law, as guilty thereof; and punished according to the quality of their offence, with all rigour. And in case the saids Injuries shall be done by surprisal, That they follow and pursue the committers thereof, untill they apprehend their Persons, and present them to Our Secret Council, to be Judged by them, as they shall order: Otherwise we declare, that they themselves shall be lyable for such Reparation, Damage and Interest, as the saids Lords of Council shall think fit to determine. And Ordains the saids Sheriffs to cause intimate these presents, by Publick Proclamation, at the Mercat-Crosses of the Head Burghs of the saids respective Shires and Stewartries: And cause read the same at all the Paroch Churches within the saids Shires and Stewartry, upon a Sunday before noon, after Divine Service, with all diligence: And that these presents be printed, that none pretend ignorance.*

EDINBURGH,

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